

Appln. No. 09/870,545
 Amendment dated September 17, 2004
 Reply to Office Action of July 19, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3, 5, 7, 16, 18 and 20-23 and amend claim 1 as follows. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended). A food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place comprising:

a customer-operated automatic meal ticket dispenser,
 5 disposed at an order placing location remote from a customer's
table, which accepts a customer-initiated order, corresponding to
 order identifying information, and which dispenses a meal ticket
to a customer, the dispenser including first transmitting means
 for transmitting the order identifying information of the meal
 10 ticket to a cooking location proximate at the time the customer
purchases the meal ticket from the meal ticket dispenser order is
placed,

reading units, arranged ~~in customers'~~ at customer tables,
 respectively, for reading order identifying information of meal
 15 tickets of customers, said reading units being operatively

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coupled to second transmitting means for transmitting cooking information including the order identifying information read by a respective reading unit and a seat number identifying information on the table in which the reading unit is arranged, and

20 cooking information informing means disposed at the cooking location which is remote from the customer table, for receiving the order identifying information transmitted by the first transmitting means and the cooking information transmitted by the second transmitting means, and for informing a cook or a cooking
 25 director located at the cooking location of the order identifying information and the seat number identifying information of the cooking information transmitted by the second transmitting means.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented). The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, comprising a food and drink carrier container and identifying information imparting means for imparting the seat number
 5 identifying information to the food and drink carrier container.

Claim 3 (Cancelled).

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Claim 4 (Previously Presented). The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 2, comprising automatic conveying means for putting the cooked food thereon and conveying the cooked food from a food preparation
5 location to the seat associated with the seat number identifying information.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented). The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 4,
5 wherein the automatic conveying means comprises guide means for announcing an arrival of ordered food and drink to the customer when the food and drink arrives at the seat associated with the seat number identifying information.

Claims 7 - 14 (Cancelled).

Claim 15 (Previously Presented). The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, wherein the customer initiated order is provided to the dispenser

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prior to the customer being seated in the eating and drinking place.

Claim 16 (Cancelled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented). The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, wherein the customer initiated order is transmitted by the first transmitting means prior to the customer being seated in the
5 eating and drinking place.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).

Claim 19 (Previously Presented). The food and drink serving system for an eating and drinking place according to Claim 1, wherein the automatic meal ticket dispenser is configured to accept payment from the customer proximate the time that the
5 customer-initiated order is provided to the dispenser.

Claims 20-23 (Cancelled).